UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1999/75
7 January 1999

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-fifth session
Item 14 (d) of the provisional agenda

SPECIFIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS: OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its fifty-second session, the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1996/61, requested the Secretary-General to examine, in cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies, in particular the World Health Organization, as well as the International Criminal Police Organization and all relevant non-governmental organizations, the reliability of allegations regarding the removal of organs and tissues of children and adults for commercial purposes in order to enable the Commission at its fifty-third session to decide upon possible follow-up in this matter, taking into account the recommendation of the Sub-Commission in this regard.

2. At its fifty-third session, the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1997/20, taking note of the note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1997/78), requested the Secretary-General to continue the examination of the reliability of allegations regarding the removal of organs and tissues of children and adults for commercial purposes and to include an analysis of this question in an updated report to be submitted to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session, in order to enable the Commission to decide whether continued attention to this question is required.

3. Pursuant to this resolution, the Secretary-General, on 6 January 1998, addressed a note verbale to Governments, relevant United Nations agencies, in particular the World Health Organization, as well as the International Criminal Police Organization and all relevant non-governmental organizations for information on the issue. In the absence of replies from concerned institutions, a reminder was sent on 2 December 1998. As of 29 December 1998, no information has been received.